Illegal sending of persons abroad

†1782. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken action against agents involved in sending persons abroad illegally;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of complaints received by Government against such agents during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Strict action is taken against recruiting agents involved in sending persons abroad illegally. If any registered agent commits any irregularity, action is taken to suspend/cancel his registration certificate as per procedure prescribed under the Emigration Act, 1983 and Rules framed thereunder. If the Agents are not registered, complaints are filed with the concerned State Police Authorities for violation of Section 10 of the Emigration Act, 1983. All the States/U.Ts have also been requested to issue instructions to the Police Authorities and Deputy Commissioners/District Magistrates to sensitize them about the need to curb the illegal activities of unscrupulous agents.

(c) During the last three years, one hundred thirteen such complaints were received and prosecution sanctions were issued in sixty cases.

Emigration Amendment

1783. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government consider to initiate any effective measures against the involvement of fake recruiting agencies to avoid exploitation of women belong to poor families in Kerala seeking employment in Gulf countries;

(b) whether Government would consider to introduce any Emigration Amendment to do away with such exploitation and malpractices; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Action has been taken under Section 24 of the Emigration Act, 1983 through the State Police Authorities to curb the activities of illegal recruiting agencies involved in exploitation of Indian emigrant workers, including women seeking employment overseas. All the States/UTs have also been requested to issue instructions to the Police Authorities and Deputy Commissioners/ District Magistrates to sensitize them about the need to curb the illegal activities of unscrupulous agents. In the last three years, sanctions have been issued in 60 cases to prosecute the illegal recruiting agencies.

(b) and (c) There are adequate provisions under the Emigration Act, 1983 to take action against the recruiting agents involved in exploitation and malpractices.

Reduction in Public Holidays

1784. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI LALIT BHAI MEHTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of reducing public holidays observed by the Central Government;

(b) how many public holidays, including Saturday-Sundays are to be observed during 2005 calender year;

(c) what is the estimated loss to Government Business-Industry-Economic activity by observing one day holiday by the Central Government; and

(d) whether any representation is received from business community including exporters to reduce holidays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) During calendar year 2005, the Central Government offices with 5 days week have 52 Sundays and 52 Saturdays observed as holidays (weekly off). The offices following 6 days week have 52 Sundays and